

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10687 090918Z
ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 EA-06 IO-06 INR-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10687

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: INFORMATION FROM BOAT REFUGEE INTERVIEWS

REF: HONG KONG 10565

1. WE OBTAINED ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM GROUP OF 135 REFUGEES WHICH FURTHER INVOLVES VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN DANANG IN THEIR DEPARTURE.
2. REFUGEES WERE TOLD BY ORGANIZER TO MEET AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WHERE THEY WOULD BE PICKED UP. DURING NIGHT ARMY TRUCKS WITH PERSONS DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING PICKED UP REFUGEES AT THESE LOCATIONS AND TRANSPORTED IN SMALL NUMBERS TO LOCATION KNOWN AS MONKEY MOUNTAIN. FROM THERE REFUGEES WERE TAKEN IN SMALL MOTOR BOATS A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 100 YARDS, WHERE THEY BOARDED VIETNAMESE NAVY VESSEL WHICH TOOK THEM TO ISLAND DESCRIBED REFTEL.
3. AFTER INTERROGATION ON ISLAND, REFUGEES WERE FINGERPRINTED AND WERE TOLD TO FILL OUT EXIT VISA APPLICATIONS. REFUGEES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THAT THEIR EXIT VISAS WERE APPROVED

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PAGE 02 HONG K 10687 090918Z

AND THEY COULD LEAVE VIETNAM FOR ANY DESTINATION OF THEIR CHOICE.

4. REFTEL MENTIONED THAT BELONGINGS WERE SEARCHED AND VALUABLES CONFISCATED. REFUGEES WERE ALLOWED TO RETAIN ONE WRISTWATCH AND .3 RPT .3 TAE OF GOLD EACH PERSON. ANY VALUABLES IN EXCESS OF THIS WAS TAKEN BY VIETNAMESE

IN MILITARY UNIFORMS.

5. WHEN THE TWO TAIWAN TRAWLERS WITH THE 135 REFUGEES ON BOARD DEPARTED DANANG, THEY WERE ESCORTED BY VIETNAMESE NAVY GUNBOAT. TAIWAN FISHING CAPTAINS WERE TOLD IF THEY TURNED BACK, GUNBOAT WOULD OPEN FIRE AND SINK TRAWLERS. REFUGEES SAY BOTH TRAWLERS HAD BEEN SEIZED BY VIETNAMESE NAVY IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND WERE BROUGHT TO DANANG, WHERE THEY WERE DETAINED UNTIL REFUGEES LEFT ON BOARD.
SHOESMITH

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